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TURN OUT 2016: THE LGBTQ VOTE & BATTLEGROUND PENNSYLVANIA

This November, a growing and highly engaged LGBTQ voting bloc in Pennsylvania will play a pivotal role in the presidential, senatorial and other down-ballot races. Today, there are more than 273,000 LGBTQ¹ voters living in Pennsylvania -- a substantial population given that the state was won in the last three presidential elections by an average of 358,189 votes.² Pennsylvania is being hard fought this election cycle. This year, both 538 and the New York Times have picked Pennsylvania as the state most likely to be the tipping point state for the presidential election.

This November, there are 9.4 million LGBTQ people of voting age in the United States. Turnout among LGBTQ voters is also reliably high. This bloc was a crucial piece of the puzzle for President Obama's victory: in the last election, President Obama received 76 percent of all LGB votes,³ according to national exit polls. In total, roughly 6 million LGB voters cast a ballot in 2012 -- an election President Obama won by just under 5 million votes. Polling this year showed Secretary Clinton's support among LGBTQ voters is running even higher than President Obama at 84 percent.

2,500

MUNICIPALITIES IN
PENNSYLVANIA⁴



**ONLY
34**

have passed separate ordinances to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, including Pittsburgh, Lancaster, Erie, Harrisburg, Scranton, and Philadelphia

DONALD TRUMP, PAT TOOMEY AND MIKE PENCE: NOT HELPING

Pennsylvanians will see three anti-LGBTQ politicians in America on their ballots this fall: Donald Trump, Mike Pence and Pat Toomey. Toomey, who opposes marriage equality and, despite earlier support for ENDA, does not support the Equality Act or bills that would ensure that the partners of military veterans have access to critical spousal benefits and would protect students from being bullied for who they are. Katie McGinty, an outspoken supporter of marriage equality, supports the Equality Act, open service for transgender members of the military, and would work to strengthen hate crimes reporting requirements in the Senate. While Pat Toomey blocks hearings on Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland, Katie McGinty would do her job and vote in favor of qualified nominees to the Court. For those reasons, the Human Rights Campaign was proud to endorse Katie McGinty.



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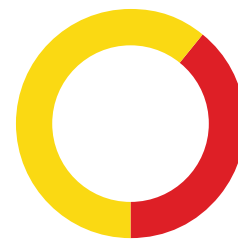
Beyond their anti-equality stance on marriage, here's how Trump and Pence have committed to rolling back LGBTQ equality.

- [Vowing to roll back nationwide marriage equality](#) by appointing Supreme Court justices willing to help overturn Obergefell.
- [Pledging to sign](#) the so-called "First Amendment Defense Act," or FADA, legislation that would enable taxpayer-funded discrimination against LGBTQ people in the federal government.
- Backing Pence's [right to discriminate](#) bill, which intended to allow Indiana businesses to discriminate and deny services to LGBTQ people because of who they are or whom they love.
- Pence's effort to divert HIV funding to promote the abusive practice of so-called "conversion therapy."
- Undermining the U.S. global efforts to advance LGBTQ equality through our foreign policy.
- Opposing Department of Education guidance on transgender students' right to access bathrooms consistent with their gender identity.



78%

OF PENNSYLVANIANS INDICATE THEY WOULD FAVOR THE STATE LEGISLATURE UPDATING PENNSYLVANIA'S CURRENT NONDISCRIMINATION LAW TO INCLUDE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY



61%

indicating they would **"strongly favor"** the legislature taking this action⁵

HILLARY CLINTON AND TIM KAINE: KNOWN CHAMPIONS FOR EQUALITY

LGBTQ and pro-equality voters are also looking to the top of the ticket for an ally who will keep building on the progress of the last 8 years, and crucially, sign the Equality Act into law. Hillary Clinton has laid out the most robust plan for advancing LGBTQ equality of any presidential candidate ever -- from championing the Equality Act, to wiping out HIV, to addressing hate violence and more.

In September, Tim Kaine addressed more than 3,600 LGBTQ advocates and allies at [HRC's National Dinner](#). There, he shared his and Hillary Clinton's devotion to LGBTQ equality and rebuked Trump's attempts to pander to the LGBTQ community -- pandering that started in the wake of the tragedy in Orlando. Unlike Trump, when Kaine was in Orlando recently, he paid tribute to the 49 LGBTQ people and allies who died at Pulse nightclub. That evening, just before the presidential debate, Kaine joined HRC supporters at a debate party where he spoke strongly in favor of LGBTQ rights and working for full federal equality.

Most Americans are unaware that today, in 31 states -- including Pennsylvania -- LGBTQ people are lack fully inclusive LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections, leaving them at risk for being hired, fired, evicted or denied services because of who they are. [The Equality Act](#), a top priority for LGBTQ voters, would rectify that by adding these protections for LGBTQ people into our longstanding civil rights laws. This law has bipartisan backing in Congress and the support of more than 80 leading companies -- and the nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) found this year that [71 percent of Americans](#) and 70% of Pennsylvanians favor such a bill. In fact, 84 percent of all voters and [73 percent of Pennsylvanians](#) already believe it's a law we already have on the books.

Within in the past year, Governor Tom Wolf signed executive actions protecting LGBT state employees and contractors from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender expression. These executive actions are welcome news, but there's more work to be done to ensure Pennsylvania's LGBT citizens are treated with dignity and respect. It's far past time for the Pennsylvania General Assembly to pass the Pennsylvania Fairness Act so that all Pennsylvanians, no matter who they are or whom they love, can live their lives without fear of discrimination. The bipartisan Pennsylvania Fairness Act would update the state's nondiscrimination law to explicitly include protections for LGBT people from discrimination at work, in housing, and in public places.



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What's more, there is little support for North Carolina's HB2-style discriminatory laws nationally. PRRI's August poll found 64 percent of voters nationally oppose HB2-style laws, while only 35 percent of Americans support them. In addition, 62 percent of Pennsylvanians⁶ said small-business owners should not be able to discriminate based on their religious beliefs.

¹ Derived from state by state analysis on percentage of LGBT population released by Gallup and compared with overall state population. Gallup report (<http://www.gallup.com/poll/160517/lgbt-percentage-highest-lowest-north-dakota.aspx>) is co-authored by Gary J. Gates, a national expert in LGBT demographics, and the Williams Distinguished Scholar at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.

² Average of vote difference in Florida [general election results](#) for 2004, 2008, and 2012.

³ Exit polls did not ask demographic information to identify transgender voters.

⁴ <http://crossroads.newsworks.org/index.php/local/keystone-crossroads/89250-in-most-of-pennsylvania-its-legal-to-deny-someone-housing-for-being-gay-lesbian-bisexual-or-transgender>

⁵ <http://www.pennsylvaniacompetes.org/support/>

⁶ <http://www.prrri.org/research/beyond-same-sex-marriage-attitudes-on-lgbt-nondiscrimination-and-religious-exemptions-from-the-2015-american-values-atlas/#.Vs-4nt-rSvM>